22. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the composition comprises a biocompatible matrix.

23. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 18, wherein the biocompatible matrix is at least one member selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, alginate, collagen, heparin, polylactic-coglycolid and or polyactic-coglycolid derivatives or combinations thereof.

24. A method of inducting of the chondro- osteogenic lineage and promoting cartilage and or bone formation comprising administering an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 18 to a subject.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the composition further comprises an osteoinductive protein.

26. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said osteoinductive protein is selected from the group consisting of BMP-2, BMP-7 and a hedgehog protein.

27. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the ratio of osteoinductive protein : MIA is 1 : 1 to 1:20.

28. The method as claimed in claim 25 wherein the melanoma inhibiting activity factor (MIA) is combined with a biocompatible matrix.

29. The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein said biocompatible matrix comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, alginate, collagen, heparin, polylactic-coglycolid and polylactic-coglycolid derivatives.

30. A method for manufacturing a pharmaceutical composition to improve induction of the chondro osteogenic lineage and to promote cartilage and or bone formation an expression vector for a melanoma inhibiting activity factor (MIA) or a combination of a vector for the expression of an osteoinductive protein with a vector capable of expression of a melanoma inhibiting activity factor (MIA).

31. A method for inducting the chondro- osteogenic lineage and promoting cartilage and or bone formation comprising administering the pharmaceutical composition prepared by the method of claim 30 to a subject.

32. The method claimed in claim 30, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises at least one biocompatible matrix selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, alginate,

calcium sulfate, tricalcium phosphate, hydroxylapatite, polylactic-coglycolid, polyanhydrides and collagen.

33. The method comprising bone and or cartilage in a patient comprising administering an effective amount of a melanoma inhibiting activity factor (MIA) to the patient.

34. The method according to claim 33, further comprising co-administering an osteoinductive protein is used.

REMARKS

The purpose of this amendment is to conform the claims to U.S. practice.

Respectfully submitted,

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